

Project Name	Town of Rome Threatened and Endangered Species Survey	Date	7/13/2026
To / Contact info	Town of Rome		
Cc / Contact info	Carl Hasdal		
From / Contact info	Jay Michels, Drew Harry, Maria Ciotola		
Regarding	Proposed Akron Solar Project		

Introduction

A rare species survey was conducted on June 2nd, 12th, and 23rd, 2026 for the Town of Rome on the proposed Akron Solar Project. The previous Endangered Resources Review produced a handful of occurrences, which were redacted. The Town of Rome suspected that this area includes habitat for rare species, so EOR was hired to survey for state and federally-listed species.

Located in the Central Sand Plains Ecological Landscape, the majority of the Study Area contains sandy, nutrient-poor soils. According to publicly available Public Service Commission (PSC) files, no wetlands were delineated onsite, and surveyors noted few hydrophytic taxa during the current survey. Surveys occurred during an extended period without rain, but temperatures were average and low precipitation did not likely affect the detection of rare species.

The entirety of the area covered was enrolled in the Managed Forest Law at the time of surveys and was thus publicly accessible.

Methods

Surveyors Drew Harry (WDNR-Certified Rare Species Surveyor, WDNR-approved Grassland and Wetland Bird Surveyor, Karner Blue Butterfly Surveyor) and Maria Ciotola (WDNR-Certified Karner Blue Butterfly Surveyor, WDNR-Certified Threatened/Endangered Herp Surveyor, WDNR-Certified Endangered Resources Reviewer) surveyed approximately 2,150 acres of the 2,450-acre proposed project. The Study Area is composed almost entirely of red pine plantations, with small inclusions of prairie openings, pine-oak barrens, and an extensive trail network for all-terrain vehicles. Approximately 600 acres of the pine plantation had been cut over at the time of field surveys.

A desktop review of publicly available PSC files included the wetland report, Endangered Resources Review, and relevant geodata such as project boundaries.

Historical aerial imagery was interpreted for historic land use. Leaf-off aerial imagery was used to determine areas with jack pine and oak, while leaf-on imagery from 2025 was used to determine recently logged plots, recently planted plots, and potential prairie openings.

These data sources were complemented with the Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin to produce a list of potential state- and federally-listed species for the site. EOR also reviewed Natural Heritage Inventory data (WDNR License Agreement LA211) was also used to determine species which had been documented on or near the site.

37 suspect areas totaling 307 acres were delineated via desktop review as candidate areas to search during field surveys. Of these 37 areas, 32 areas totaling 172 acres were traversed by foot. The entire northwestern block of the Project Area totaling 130 acres of suspect area was not accessed due to posted no trespassing signs. This northwestern area contains the most extensive pine-oak barrens

and an additional utility corridor, and thus may contain suitable habitat for many state and federally listed species.

The surveys on June 2nd and 12th were conducted by both surveyors, from 7:30am until 3:00pm. The June 23rd survey targeted potential breeding Kirtland's Warblers (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) and was conducted from 5:00am until 6:45am.

These surveys do not constitute official USFWS or WDNR species survey protocols. The purpose of this investigation was to document observations or lack there of.

Results

In total, surveyors covered approximately 10 miles on the ground over approximately 28 combined survey hours.

One federally-listed, one federal-candidate, and five state-listed species were documented on the site, (Table 1).

Table 1. Federally-listed or candidate species documented onsite.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Population Estimate
<i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> ^E	Karner Blue Butterfly	Dry openings with <i>Lupinus perennis</i>	5 butterflies observed. Population likely less than 100 individuals.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> ^C	Monarch Butterfly	Open areas with milkweed	25+ observed in flight, 5+ caterpillars. Likely hundreds given milkweed density and diversity.

^E=federally endangered, ^C=federal candidate species for listing

Additionally, possible gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) scat was observed in the Project Area (Photo 13). The Project Area may also host the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) and Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Project Area has the potential to harbor over ¼ of the federally listed or candidate species known from Wisconsin.

The following state-listed endangered, threatened, or special concern taxa were documented onsite (Table 2). All taxa have been submitted into Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory database via iNaturalist, and are supported with photographic vouchers from onsite.

Table 2. State-listed species documented onsite.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Population Estimate
<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i> ^T	Oval-leaved milkweed	Dry, openings, savannas	300+ individual stems across 14 sub-populations
<i>Viola sagittaria</i> var. <i>ovata</i> ^E	Sand violet	Oak-pine barrens	5+ populations. Suitable habitat throughout Project Area

<i>Carex merri- fernaldii</i> ^{SC}	Fernald's sedge	Sandy openings	1 population. Suitable habitat throughout
<i>Carex inops</i> ^{SC}	Sun sedge	Dry, sandy, sunny microsites	1 population observed with perigynia. Suitable habitat throughout.
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i> ^{SC}	Hairy penstemon	Dry, openings	100+ individual stems. 28 sub-populations

E=state endangered, T=state threatened, SC= state special concern

Kirtland's Warbler was not detected during one early morning survey, but suitable habitat exists in the Project Area, and the absence of confirmation does not confirm absence of the species within the Project Area.

Several Species of Greatest Conservation Need bird species were observed during the site visits including, Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), and Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). A Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) was also confirmed breeding (Photo 18) within the pine plantations, among the southernmost confirmed breeding observations of this species statewide, according to Wisconsin's Breeding Bird Atlas data.

In total, two federally-listed or candidate taxa were documented, and five state-listed species were documented. There is additional potential to support rare species. As these surveys were conducted over three days in June, there are additional windows and species potentially occurring within the site. Additionally, logging the site will produce suitable habitat for many grassland birds and heliophile prairie, savanna, and barrens specialist taxa.

Additional rare taxa that may inhabit the site include but are not limited to, regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*; dense and diverse *Viola* patches), phlox moth (*Schinia indiana*; abundant *Phlox pilosa*), Kirtland's Warbler (previously documented within Study Area as recently as 2024), prairie leafhopper (*Aflexia rubranura*; dense *Sporobolus heterolpis* patches) and slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*; suitable habitat throughout Study Area).

Discussion

The publicly accessible nature of the proposed project allowed field surveys to ground truth the largely desktop Endangered Resources Review. These surveys revealed seven federally and state-listed or candidate taxa occurring within the Study Area, many of which were not anticipated from previous desktop reviews. The site contains suitable habitat for additional rare species. Despite the Endangered Resources Review indicating a lack of suitable habitat based on desktop analysis and minimal NHI records near the Study Area, detailed field assessment based on desktop assessment and available background data revealed much higher quality habitat than suggested by these resources. The absence of comprehensive historical survey data within the ER review buffer likely contributed to the initial underestimation of habitat suitability. These findings demonstrate the value of targeted field surveys in identifying suitable habitat and rare species occurrence, particularly in areas where desktop resources may have limited or incomplete data.

Despite intensive land conversion to red pine plantations including degradation such as canopy closure, furrowing, and herbicide application, a barrens flora remains intact within the Project Area. 136 native plant species were observed on site. Non-native and invasive species are rare and do not form monotypic stands. Floristic quality is also high, with a native Mean C of 4.8 and an FQI of 53.4. The Project Area is unique—for areas at or below the tension zone—in harboring a largely native flora with few invasive species. This flora has a high fidelity to the oak barrens natural community in Wisconsin, with 37 out of 50 Oak Barrens Indicator Species (O'Connor et al., 2019) occurring in the Project Area, many of them at high abundance.

While the establishment of the solar project is anticipated to maintain an open habitat with pollinator-friendly plantings, much of the Project Area already features an intact, native, low-statured groundlayer that accomplishes the goals of a pollinator planting. Many of the plant species (included unlisted) occurring in the project area are not commercially available and/or are largely irreplaceable (e.g., *Lithospermum*, *Carex*, *Comandra*, *Nuttallanthus*). Even if rare plant taxa were included in seed mixes, the loss of local genetic diversity could significantly impact statewide populations. Glyphosate is recommended to be applied without restrictions in March-April to vegetation 3-5" tall, to "remove all vegetation to prepare areas for permanent seeding." Additionally, project plans include removal of the top 6-12 inches of organic soil. Both herbicide and topsoil removal are likely to extirpate much of the native vegetation and fauna, including rare taxa.

Sources

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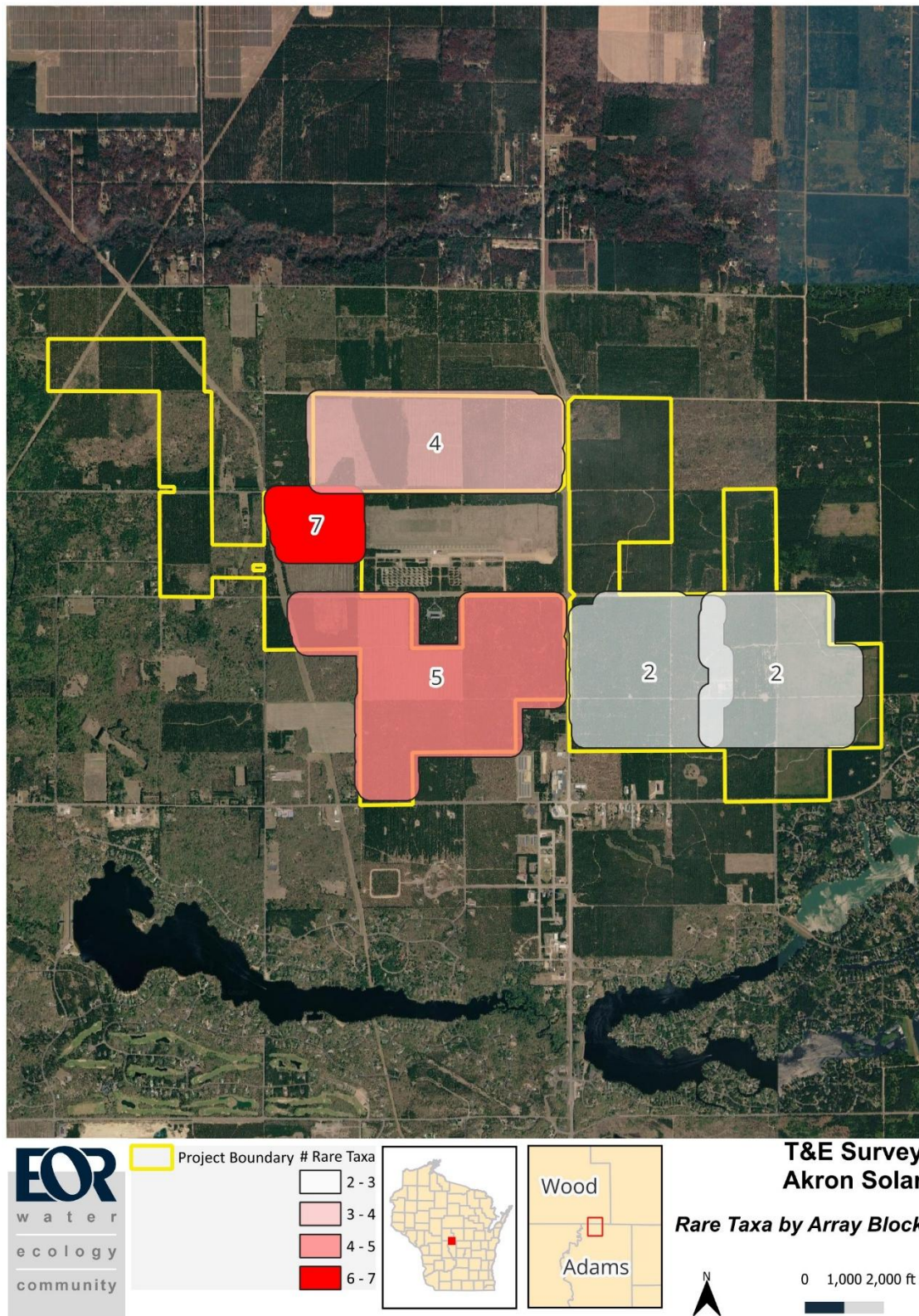


Figure 1. Rare taxa by array block, including alternate array areas. The area with the highest density of rare species is planned for intensive use including laydown yards and battery energy storage systems.

Appendix A. Plant Species List and Metrics

Summary Metrics, Project Area

Total Mean C:	4.3
Native Mean C:	5.8
Total FQI:	53.4
Native FQI:	56
Adjusted FQI:	45.1
% C value 0:	13.6
% C value 1-3:	19.5
% C value 4-6:	48.1
% C value 7-10:	18.8
Native Tree Mean C:	4.3
Native Shrub Mean C:	5.6
Native Herbaceous Mean C:	4.8

Species Richness:

Total Species:	154
Native Species:	136
Non-native Species:	18

Species Wetness:

Mean Wetness:	3.4
Native Mean Wetness:	3.3

Table 3. Species List. C= coefficient of conservatism, W=wetness, Abundance follows: 1-rare, 2-uncommon, 3-common, 4-abundant, 5-dominant.

Scientific Name	Family	Native?	C	W	Common Name	Abundance
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Asteraceae	native	1	3	common yarrow smooth	3
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Rosaceae	native	6	5	serviceberry	1
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Poaceae	native	4	3	big blue-stem long-headed	3
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	Ranunculaceae	native	6	5	thimbleweed	2
<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	Asteraceae	native	3	5	field pussy-toes	3
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Apocynaceae	native	2	5	spreading dogbane	3
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Apocynaceae	native	3	0	indian hemp	3
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Ranunculaceae	native	5	3	wild columbine	4
<i>Arabidopsis lyrata</i>	Brassicaceae	native	4	3	lyrate rock-cress	3
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Brassicaceae	native	5	5	tower mustard	2
<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	5	field wormwood	1
<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>	Asclepiadaceae	native	8	5	clasping milkweed	1

<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i>	Asclepiadaceae	native	8	5	dwarf milkweed	3
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Asclepiadaceae	native	1	5	common milkweed	2
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Asclepiadaceae	native	6	5	butterfly milkweed	1
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Asclepiadaceae	native	2	5	whorled milkweed short green	3
<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>	Asclepiadaceae	native	9	5	milkweed	1
<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	Poaceae	native	8	0	kalms brome	1
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Campanulaceae	native	5	3	harebell	2
<i>Carex inops</i>	Cyperaceae	native	4	5	long-stolon sedge	2
<i>Carex merritt-fernaldii</i>	Cyperaceae	native	4	5	fernalds oval sedge muhlenbergs	1
<i>Carex muehlenbergii</i>	Cyperaceae	native	4	5	bracted sedge	3
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Cyperaceae	native	3	5	pennsylvania sedge	5
<i>Carex siccata</i>	Cyperaceae	native	4	5	dry-spiked sedge	4
<i>Carex tonsa</i>	Cyperaceae	native	4	5	shaved sedge inland new jersey	3
<i>Ceanothus herbaceus</i>	Rhamnaceae	native	8	5	tea	3
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Asteraceae	native	8	5	prairie coreopsis	3
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Betulaceae	native	5	3	american hazelnut great plains flat	3
<i>Cyperus lupulinus</i>	Cyperaceae	native	3	3	sedge	2
<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Poaceae	native	4	5	poverty oat grass	3
<i>Dichanthelium oligosanthes</i>	Poaceae	native	4	3	few-flowered panic grass	2
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	Poaceae	native	4	3	slender wheat grass	3
<i>Eragrostis capillaris</i>	Poaceae	native	1	5	lace grass	1
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	native	4	5	flowering spurge common flat-	3
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	0	topped goldenrod	2
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Rubiaceae	native	5	0	northern bedstraw	3
<i>Helianthemum canadense</i>	Cistaceae	native	6	5	common rock-rose	4
<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	-3	giant sunflower	1
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Asteraceae	native	6	3	western sunflower few-leaved	2
<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i>	Asteraceae	native	7	5	sunflower	2
<i>Hesperostipa spartea</i>	Poaceae	native	9	5	needle grass	3
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Saxifragaceae	native non-	7	3	prairie alumroot mouse-ear	2
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Asteraceae	native	0	5	hawkweed	3
<i>Hieracium scabrum</i>	Asteraceae	native	6	5	rough hawkweed	1
<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>	Rubiaceae	native	6	5	long-leaved bluets	3
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Poaceae	native	7	5	june grass	3
<i>Lechea stricta</i>	Cistaceae	native	6	5	bushy pinweed	2

<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Fabaceae	native	5	3	round-headed bush-clover	2
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Asteraceae	non-native	0	5	ox-eye daisy	2
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Asteraceae	native	5	5	rough blazing-star	3
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Scrophulariaceae	non-native	0	5	butter-and-eggs	1
<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	Boraginaceae	native	10	5	hoary puccoon	4
<i>Lithospermum carolinense</i>	Boraginaceae	native	10	5	hairy puccoon	3
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Fabaceae	native	6	5	wild lupine	2
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Liliaceae	native	5	3	canada mayflower	1
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	Liliaceae	native	5	3	feathery false solomons-seal	2
<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	Liliaceae	native	5	0	starry false solomons-seal	2
<i>Mollugo verticillata</i>	Molluginaceae	non-native	0	0	green carpetweed	1
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Lamiaceae	native	3	3	wild bergamot	2
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Lamiaceae	native	3	5	dotted horsemint	1
<i>Nuttallanthus canadensis</i>	Scrophulariaceae	native	5	5	annual toadflax	4
<i>Packera paupercula</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	0	balsam ragwort	3
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Poaceae	native	4	0	switch grass	2
<i>Penstemon gracilis</i>	Scrophulariaceae	native	6	5	slender beard-tongue	3
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Scrophulariaceae	native	4	5	hairy beard-tongue	3
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Polemoniaceae	native	7	3	downy phlox	4
<i>Physalis virginiana</i>	Solanaceae	native	4	5	lance-leaved ground-cherry	2
<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Pinaceae	native	5	3	jack pine	3
<i>Piptatherum pungens</i>	Poaceae	native	8	5	short-horned rice grass	3
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Poaceae	non-native	0	3	kentucky bluegrass	3
<i>Polygala polygama</i>	Polygalaceae	native	6	3	bitter milkwort	2
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Liliaceae	native	4	3	giant solomons-seal	1
<i>Prunus americana</i>	Rosaceae	native	3	5	american plum	1
<i>Prunus pumila</i>	Rosaceae	native	9	5	sand cherry	2
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Rosaceae	native	3	3	wild black cherry	2
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Rosaceae	native	3	3	chokecherry	2
<i>Quercus alba</i>	Fagaceae	native	7	3	white oak	2
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Fagaceae	native	5	5	northern pin oak	2

<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Fagaceae	native	5	3	bur oak	3
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Fagaceae	native	5	3	northern red oak	3
<i>Ranunculus</i>						
<i>rhomboides</i>	Ranunculaceae	native	7	5	prairie crowfoot	2
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	5	globular coneflower	1
<i>Rosa arkansana</i>	Rosaceae	native	5	3	dwarf prairie rose	2
<i>Rubus flagellaris</i>	Rosaceae	native	3	3	northern dewberry	4
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	3	black-eyed susan	1
<i>Salix humilis</i>	Salicaceae	native	6	3	prairie willow	3
<i>Schizachne</i>						
<i>purpurascens</i>	Poaceae	native	7	3	false melic grass	2
<i>Schizachyrium</i>						
<i>scoparium</i>	Poaceae	native	4	3	little bluestem	3
		non-				
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i>	Caryophyllaceae	native	0	5	perennial knawel	1
<i>Scutellaria parvula</i> var.					smooth small	
<i>missouriensis</i>	Lamiaceae	native	6	3	skullcap	2
<i>Silene antirrhina</i>	Caryophyllaceae	native	2	5	sleepy catchfly	2
<i>Sisyrinchium</i>					prairie blue-eyed-	
<i>campestre</i>	Iridaceae	native	7	5	grass	4
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Asteraceae	native	1	3	canada goldenrod	2
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Asteraceae	native	4	5	early goldenrod	2
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Asteraceae	native	5	5	showy goldenrod	2
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Poaceae	native	5	3	indian grass	2
<i>Symphyotrichum</i>						
<i>oolentangiense</i>	Asteraceae	native	5	5	azure aster	3
<i>Symphyotrichum</i>						
<i>sericeum</i>	Asteraceae	native	8	5	silky aster	1
<i>Symphyotrichum</i>					white arrow-leaved	
<i>urophyllum</i>	Asteraceae	native	3	5	aster	1
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Commelinaceae	native	5	3	ohio spiderwort	3
		non-				
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Asteraceae	native	0	5	meadow salsify	3
<i>Vaccinium</i>						
<i>angustifolium</i>	Ericaceae	native	4	3	early low blueberry	2
		non-				
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Scrophulariaceae	native	0	5	common mullein	1
<i>Verbena bracteata</i>	Verbenaceae	native	0	3	bracted vervain	1
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Verbenaceae	native	3	5	hoary vervain	2
		non-			common gypsy-	
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Scrophulariaceae	native	0	3	weed	1
<i>Viola pedata</i>	Violaceae	native	7	5	birds-foot violet	3
<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	Violaceae	native	9	3	prairie violet	1
<i>Viola sagittata</i> var.						
<i>ovata</i>	Violaceae	native	10	0	sand violet	2

<i>Viola sagittata</i> var. <i>sagittata</i>	Violaceae	native	6	0	arrow-leaved violet	3
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Appendix B. Bird Species List

Scientific Name	Common Name	Abundance
<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Tufted Titmouse	Rare
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing	Common
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	Rare
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal	Common
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Veery	Rare
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush	Rare
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Woodpewee	Uncommon
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow	Rare
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	Uncommon
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay	Uncommon
<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	Rare
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird	Common
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat	Uncommon
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Rare
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush	Rare
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole	Rare
<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler	Rare
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker	Rare
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey	Rare
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	Common
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black and White Warbler	Rare
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird	Rare
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great-crested Flycatcher	Uncommon
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	Rare
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Indigo Bunting	Common
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Rare

<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern Towhee	Abundant
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee	Rare
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle	Rare
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Ovenbird	Common
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler	Rare
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart	Rare
<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Eastern Bluebird	Rare
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch	Rare
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch	Uncommon
<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Clay-colored Sparrow	Abundant
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow	Uncommon
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow	Abundant
<i>Strix varia</i>	Barred Owl	Rare
<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark	Rare
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brown Thrasher	Rare
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren	Uncommon
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin	Rare
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird	Abundant
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	Common

Appendix C. Photo Log

Habitat Overviews



Photo 1. Typical sandy ATV trail. These trails are extensive and likely attractive to slender glass lizards.



Photo 2. Typical jack pine-oak woodland/barrens, shown here with a shrubby understory and fire scarring apparent on trees and shrubs in the background.



Photo 3. Openings and barrens-type areas are common, likely maintained as turnarounds or maintenance breaks, but harbor heliophilic native plants like *Lithospermum canescens*, *Piptatheropsis pungens*, and *Houstonia longifolia* here.



Photo 4. Typical logged-over stand with dense *Carex pensylvanica*, occasional oak grubs, and moderate shrub cover. These logged-over stands constituted a majority of the survey area, and contained the highest density and diversity of native flora.



Photo 5. Dense *Sporobolus heterolepis* in the utility right-of-way.



Photo 6. Dense *Lupinus perennis* in the utility right-of-way. Multiple Karner blue butterflies were observed here.

Rare Taxa



Photo 7. Stunted, flowering clumps of *Asclepias ovalifolia*. Flowering plants were typically surrounded by 10-30 vegetative individuals.



Photo 8. *Penstemon hirsutus*, determined by the glandular-lanate hairs, lavender and personate corollas measuring an average of 22mm from base to tip. Top photos taken June 12th, bottom photos June 2nd. Note that the Flora of North America key accepts *P. hirsutus* with or without nectar guides and that *P. gracilis* can include both glabrous and pubescent stems.



Photo 9. *Viola sagittata* var. *ovata* occurs in oak-pine barrens within the Project Area (Photo 2), with cleistogamous peduncles prostrate and ascending. Distinguished from *Viola sagittata*, also occurring onsite, which had developed triangular-lanceolate, lobed leaves.



Photo 10. Diagnostic photos of *Carex inops*. Perigynia ~1.9mm wide, ~2.8mm long. Ascending, stiff foliage. Occurring on sand of a logging road.



Photo 11. Diagnostic photos of *Carex merritt-fernaldii* with perigynia ~4.5mm long, ~3mm wide, leaf blade 3mm wide, scales slender.



Photo 12. Karner blue butterfly in the utility corridor.



Photo 13. Possible *Canis lupus* scat within Project Area.

Notable Species and Habitats



Photo 14. *Lithospermum carolinense* and *Asclepias tuberosa*. Typical on the margins of pine plantations in desktop-delineated openings.



Photo 15. *Ceanothus herbaceous* is common throughout the Project Area.



Photo 16. Phlox Pilosa is common, the potential host for the state-endangered phlox moth.



Photo 17. Numerous SGCN birds were observed, such as the Brown Thrasher here.



Photo 18. A Hermit Thrush confirmed breeding on its ground nest here, at the southern limit of its range in Wisconsin.



Photo 19. *Lithospermum canescens* is abundant throughout the Project Area.



Photo 20. *Asclepias viridiflora* observed in an opening of an oak-pine barrens stand.



Photo 21. *Asclepias amplexicaulis* in a recently logged stand.